

# London's FLAMES:

Being an Exact and Impartial

## A C C O U N T

O F

# Divers Informations

Given in to the

## COMMITTEE of PARLIAMENT,

By Divers Members of Parliament, and many other Persons of Quality (whose Names are inserted in this Book) Concerning the *Dreadful Fire* of LONDON in the Year 1666. and the many other strange Fires which have happened since.

Together with what was said by Mr. *Langborne*, now a Prisoner, and Condemned for the Horrid *Papish Plot*, concerning the *Great FIRE*.

Wherein is plainly proved,

That the P A P I S T S were the Contrivers and Actors in the Burning of that GREAT and NOBLE CITY.

535  
LONDON, Printed in the Year 1679.

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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[illegible]

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# INFORMATIONS

Given in before the

## Committee, &c.

*In a Letter from Alanzon, of the 23d of August, New Style, Written from one Dural, to a Gentleman lodging in the House of a Minister of the French Church in London, called Monsieur Heralt, were these Expressions, viz.*

**P**RAY acquaint me with the Truth of certain News, which is common in this Country, that Fire from Heaven is fallen upon a City called *Balke*, scituate on the side of the River of *Thames*; where a world of People have been killed and burned, and Houses also consumed. This name was given to *London* by its Godfather *Cabal*, who thereby inform their own, but amuse the adverse Party.

*Mrs. Elizabeth Styles* saith, That in *April* last, in an angry dispute she had with a French Servant of *Sir Vere Vane's*, he hastily replied, *You English Maidens will like the French-men better, when there is not an House left between London-Bridge and Temple-Bar*, which she answering, *I hope your Eyes will never see that*, He replied, *This will come to pass between June and December.*

*William Tisdale* informs, that he being, about the beginning of *July*, at the *Greyhound* in *St. Martins*, with one *Fitz-Harris* an *Irish* Papist, He heard him say; *There shall be sad Desolation in September, and in November a worse.* For in *December* all will be united into one; hereupon *Tisdale* asking where this Desolation would be, the said Priest answered him, *in London.*

*Mr. Lite of Ratcliff* having some Discourse with one *Mr. Langborne* of the middle *Temple*, Barrister, reputed a zealous Papist, about *February* last; after some Discourse in disputing about Religion, he took him by the hand and said to him, *You expect great things in 1666. and think that Rome will be destroyed; but what if it be London?*

One *Kiteley* of *Barking* in *Essex*, informs, that one *Taxley* a Papist, of *Ilford* in the said County, came into their House *August* the 13th. who falling into Discourse with his Mother, said, *They say that next Thursday, will be the hottest day that ever was in England.* She replied, *I hope the hottest Season of the year is now past.* To which he answered; *I know not whether it be the hottest for Weather or Action: The said Taxley, coming to the same House, the week after the Fire, Mr. Kiteley said*

to him with some trouble; *I have often thought upon your hot Thursday*, To which she replied, *It was not indoted upon the Thursday, but it hapned upon the Sunday come sevennight after*; Mr. Taxley bearing these Evidences produced against her, prompted her to avoid the words, saying, that upon the 13th of August, she did tell Mr. Kiteley, *That they say next Thursday, will be the darkeſt Thursday, that ever was in England, but not otherwiſe*; Which she affirms to have received from one Fynchman. An old Woman of Ilford, who next being examined before a Juſtice of Peace, to diſcover the Truth thereof, denied that ever ſhe ſaid any ſuch words to Mrs. Taxley, or that ſhe had any diſcourſe with her about any ſuch Matter; as to the ſubſequent words ſhe ſaid Taxley denied ever to have ſpoken them, but Mr. Kiteley offered in her Prefence, if it ſhould be demanded, to bring his Mother and Wife to teſtifie the ſame.

*William Duckett* Member of the Houſe, informs that one *Henry Baker* of *Chippnam*, in the County of *Wilts*, coming from Market with one *John Woodman* of *Rolloway* in the ſame County, the Thursday before the Fire began in *London*, they had ſome Diſcourſe about buying a Yoke of fat Bullocks, which *Woodman* was to ſell, and was deſired by *Baker* to keep them a while in his hands, but *Woodman* replied that he would not ſtay ſo long in the County, whereupon *Baker* demanding whither he was going? he reſuſed to tell; aſking, *What he had to do to aſk that Queſtion?* And riding a little farther, the ſaid *Woodman* expreſſed theſe words; *You brave Blades of Chippnam, you made Bonfires lately for beating the Dutch, but ſince you delight in Bonfires, you ſhall have your belly full of them ere it be long*; adding, *that if he lived but one week longer, he ſhould ſee London as ſad a London as ever it was ſince the World began, and in ſome ſhort time after, he ſhould ſee as bloody a time in England, as ever was ſince England was England*: This diſcourſe was not much taken notice of at that time when it was ſpoken; but when the City of *London* was burning, the ſaid *Baker* gave this Imformation to the ſaid *Duckett*; hereupon was iſſued out a Warrant to apprehend *Woodman*, but he was gone out of the Country, and cannot be yet heard of.

*Robert Hubert*, of *Roan* in *Normandy*, confeſſed that he was one of thoſe that fired the Houſe of Mr. *Farmer* a Baker in *Pudding-Lane*, from whence the Fire had its beginning; and alſo ſayes, that he came out of *France* with one *Stephen Pedilow*, about four Months before the Fire began in *London*, and went into *Sweedland* with him, where he ſtayed alſo with him as his Companion four Months; and then they came together into *England* in a *Sweedish Ship*, called the *Skipper*, where he ſtayed on Board with the ſaid *Pedilow*, till that Saturday night on which the Fire broke out, where *Pedilow* taking him out of the Ship, carried him into *Pudding-Lane*, and he being earneſt to know whither he was carrying him, he would not ſatiſſie him, till he brought him to the Place, and then he told him that he had brought three Balls, and gave him one of them into his hand to throw into the Houſe, but he deſiring further Satiſfaction about that Deſign before he proceeded, *Pedilow* began to chaff and would not hear him, ſeeing which, *Hubert* conſents, and according to his Orders puts the Fire-ball to the end of a long Pole, which after he had lighted it with a Match, he put it in at the Window, and there ſtaid  
till



still he saw the House on a flame; to this Fact he confesses three Accomplishes whereof *Pedilow* to be chief.

*Mr. Graves*, a French Merchant, living in *St. Mary Ax*, informs; That he had known *Hubert* ever since he was four year old, and he ever observed him to be a Person of a mischievous inclination, and therefore fit for any villanous enterprise, and because of the knowledge he had of him, he went to visit him in Prison; when he saw him, he could not but commiserate his condition, whereinto he had brought himself; and for his better discovery of the Fact, he told him the said *Hubert*, that he did not believe that he had done that Fact which he had confessed himself guilty of, to which *Hubert* replied, *Yes, I am guilty of it; and have been brought to it by the Instigation of Pedilow, and not out of any malice to the English Nation, but from a desire of that Reward he promised me, upon my return into France.* [ It is observable, that this miserable Creature, who confessed himself before the Commissioners to be a Protestant, was a Papist, and dyed so; ] and as to the aforesaid *Pedilow*, the said *Mr. Graves* informs, that he had a full knowledge of him, and knew him to be a very debauch'd Person, and ready to any wicked Design; and moreover, for a clearer conviction of the guilt of the foresaid *Hubert*, *Lowman* the Keeper of the *White Lyon* was commanded to set him upon an Horse, and go with him, to see if he could find out the place where he threw the Fire-ball; upon which *Hubert*, with more readiness than those who were well acquainted with the place, went to *Pudding-lane*, where the very House which was first fired stood, saying, *Here stood the House*; the Jaylor did endeavour do draw him off from that Belief, and put him upon seeking for some other place, but he positively persisted in what he first said, and affirmed that to have been the said house. It being intimated to the Committee, that notwithstanding the Confession of the said *Hubert*, it was confidently reported, that the Fire in the fore-mentioned *Farmer* his house began by accident, so the Commissioners sent for the said *Farmer* before them, who being examined, said, *That it was impossible that any Fire should happen in his House by Accident, for that, after twelve of the clock at Night, he had gone through every Room thereof, and found no fire but in one Chimney, where the Roome was paved with Brick, which fire he raked up in the Embers*: He was then asked, Whether no Window or Door might let in Wind to displace those Coals? He affirmed, *That it could not be conceived that Wind should there disturb them, but rather that it was absolutely set on fire on purpose.*

*Dawes Williamfon Esquire*, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, informs That he saw a man apprehended near the Temple; with his pocket stuffed with combustible matter, made of Flax and Tow, and such like stuff.

*Dr. John Parker* informs, That he saw a Person throw some Combustible matter into a shop in the *Old Bayley*, which he thinks was the shop of an Apothecary; that immediately thereupon he saw a great smoak, and smelt, as it were, the smell of Brimstone; that the person that did this immediately ran away, but upon the outcry of the People he was taken by the Guard.

*Randal Harstund* and *Humphry Bmyer*, they both agree, that they saw a Person sling something into a House near *St. Antholins Church*, and that thereupon the

House

Houſe was on fire, and the ſmoak thereof filled the Houſe on the other ſide of the way; and when this was done, there was no fire near by a quarter of a mile.

*Michael March*, an Officer of the Trained-Bands, in a Company of *Sir Richard Brown's*, apprehended a woman in the time of the Fire, at the *Nags-head* in *Leaden-ball-street*, with an Inſtrument like a dark Lanthorn, made, as is conceived, to lay a Train of Powder, and it was filled with Gunpowder, (there were two more in her Company) they being asked for what Uſe they employed the ſaid Inſtrument, they would give no account thereof.

*Nawſon Killingworth* Eſquire, informs, that he apprehended a Perſon during the Fire, about whom he found much combuſtible matter, and certain black things of a large Figure, which he could not endure to hold in his hand by reaſon of their extream Heat; this Perſon was ſo ſurpriſed at firſt, that he could not answer to any queſtion, but being on his way to *White Hall*, he acted the part of a Madman, ſo continuing while he was preſent with him.

*Sir John Maynard*, a Member of this Houſe, informs, he had ſome of that Combustible matter in his hand, and though it was in its Natural conſiſtency unfired, yet the Heat was ſcarce to be endured by the touch.

*Mr. Freeman* of *Southwark* Brewer, whoſe Houſe there was lately burned, informs, that the ſame day his Houſe was fired, about a quarter of an hour before three, was found a paper with a Ball of Wild-fire, containing near a pound wrap'd up in it, in the nave of a wheel, in an outer houſe, where lay a great quantity of Timber; how this houſe was fired he knoweth not; but this he affirms to the Committee, it could not be by accident, becauſe there had not been any Candle or Fire in the Houſe where the Hay lay, that whole day; and the Hay being laid up before Midſummer very dry, it could not poſſibly be ſet on fire within it ſelf; and moreover, he ſaid, the Hay-loſt was on fire on the top of the Houſe, and that the Fire ſpread from one end of the Roof to the other in an inſtant.

*Mr. Richard Harwood* ſaith, That he being near the Feathers Tavern by *St. Pauls*, on the fourth of September, ſomething like Wild-fire by the ſparkling and ſpitting of it, appeared, whereof he gave notice to ſome Souldiers there, who cauſed it to be quenched.

## A LETTER.

SIR,

**H**earing that you are Chairman of the Committee, for examining the Firing of London; I thought good to acquaint you with this Information that I have received. *William Champrefs* Hat-band maker, now living on *Horſey-down*, was on Tuesday morning September 4th 1666. in *Shoe-lane*, and there met with a Conſtable, who had apprehended a French-man, whom he had taken firing an Houſe with Fire-Balls, and charged the ſaid Champrefs to aſſiſt him; he carried the ſaid French-man to *Salisbury Court*, but finding that burning down, he went into *Fleet-street*, and was preſently called upon by the Commander of the Guard, to know what the matter was; the Conſtable told him, he had apprehended one firing an Houſe in *Shoe-lane*. He examined the Perſon in French, and committed him to the Guard of the Souldiers, and told the Conſtable he would ſecure him, and carry him along with him,

him, the Constable asked him, if he should go along with him to give in his Evidence, he replied, He had done enough; but what became of the French-man, he knoweth not.

Your most Humble Servant S. G.

### Taken up at Leeds by Mr. Thwait's Man, a Recusant.

Cover the Fire ye Hugonots,  
That have so branded us with Plots:  
And henceforth no more Bonfires make,  
Till ye avunt the Stygian Lake, &c.

Dated the 5th. of November, Anno Salutis 1666. & Anno primo Restitutio-  
nis Romanæ Religionis in Anglia.

In a Letter directed from Ipswich, for the Honourable Sir Robert Brooke in the Parliament at Westminster, is intimated that about the 30th of August last, one of the Constables of Scoton in Horfe-mear hundred, being upon the Search of that Town about Hearth-money, was told by one Mr. William Tompson a Roman Catholick in that Town, *That though times were like to be sad, yet if he found any cause to alter his Religion, He would see that he should not want; and farther said to him, what would you say if you should see that London was burnt?*

*An Affidavit of a French-man, that said, there was three hundred engaged in the firing the City of London.*

The Information of Richard Bond, of the Parish of St. Giles in the Fields, Ironmonger; Samuel Page, Francis Cogin, William Coales, Edmund Dakins, and Richard Pardoe, taken the 18th of September 1666. by me Justinian Truin, Knight, one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, upon Oath, as follows.

Richard Bond saith, That on Thursday last, about twelve or one of the Clock at night, there was a French-man brought by the Watch to the Informers Fathers house; at the sign of the *White Hart* in Kings street, taken as a suspicious Person; and the said person being questioned by them, the Informant, and others present, whether he was not one of those that fired the City, or had any hand therein, or any private knowledge thereof, or knew any that had designed it; the said person answered a great while in a perverse manner, quite differing from the questions; but being further desired to tell the Truth, and being told, that if he were guilty, it was the only way to save his life, he did at first obstinately deny that he knew of any Plot, whereupon a young man took the Prisoner aside to the end of a Room, and after some discourse between them, they both returned to the Informant, and the rest of the Company, and the said young man said to us plainly, in the hearing of the Prisoner the French-man, *That he had confessed that there were three hundred French-men in a Plot or Conspiracy;* upon this the Informant and others spake

o the French-man in these words; *Well Master, you have done very well to confess, and no doubt but you may have your pardon if you confess all that you know of this Plot;* and thereupon asked him, if there were no more than three hundred persons in the said Plot? He answered, *No, there are no more than three hundred;* then we enquired who they were, and how he came to know they were three hundred, to which he would give no direct answer, but put it off with other extravagant discourse, and being asked why he came to St. Giles Parish where he was apprehended, He told a story that he came from Islington Fields, where his Masters goods were, but the goods were now removed he could not tell whither; but his Master bade him go up and down the Fields, but would not tell him upon what occasion, or for what end he was so to do; and he being asked whether there were three hundred men engaged in this design? He replied, *That there was three hundred engaged in it.* And the names of the persons present at the Prisoners Confession of the Plot were, Edmund Dakings Senieur, of Holbourn near Turn-stile, Littingam Bell living by Holbourn, and another young man.

The Information of William Coles of Corn-Lane London, and Samuel Page of St. Gyles, in the Fields Weaver, Edmund Dakens of the same Parish, and Francis Cugin of St. Andrews Holborn, and Richard Pardee Victualler, and one other tending to the Confirmation of the foregoing Walloone.

*An Extract of a Letter from Hiedleberge in the Palatinate,*

*September 29th 1666.*

SIR,

**Y**OURS of the 6th currant came to me on Wednesday, and brought me tidings of the burning of London, constantly believed amongst the Irish to my knowledge, this fifteen years since, was to happen this year, on which they do also promise to themselves and others, the Introduction of the Publick Exercise of the Catholick Religion. This was sent to Mr. John Aliock, who lived in Gravel Lane in Shadwel, and negotiates the Business of the Palatinate, and will produce the Original if there be occasion.

In a Letter to Sir John Frederick and Mr. Nathaniel Herne, from Northampton, the eighth of September 1666, subscribed Henry Chorney; wherein is mentioned, That he the said Chorney had thoughts to come to London that week, but they were in distraction concerning the Papiists, fearing they would shew themselves all that day; and that he had been to search a Papiists house within six miles of that place, he with another Justice of the Peace met with the Gentlemans Brother, who is a Papiist, going to London, whom they searched, and found a Letter which he had received, coming from his Sister, twenty miles off from him, wherein is expressed, *That a great deal of business is in hand, not to be committed to paper, as the times*

*are.*  
Bakers Information to Duckes, concerning John Goodman, about the Destruction of London.

Upon the ninth of September 1666. being the Sunday after the Fire began in the City of London, one Henry Baker of Chipnam in the County of Wilts, Butcher

came

came and gave in this Information, That the *Thursday* Se'night before the Fire began in *London*, coming from the *Devizes* Market, he hapned into the Company of one *John Goodman*, Husbandman, who discoursed with him about a *Yoke* of *Oxen*, as is inserted before in the Report.

*The Information of one Cherrel, a Schoolmaster in Enfield.*

Upon Friday *August* the one and thirtieth, Mrs. *St. George* and her eldest Daughter *Susan*, both Popish Recufants, came to visit Mrs. *Rebeccah Eeves* at her House in *Enfield*; where, speaking concerning the Session of Parliament drawing near, Mrs. *St. George* told her, *That some were like to be called to account for a Plot*; being asked for what? told her in her Ear, *For burning the City*. When Mrs. *Eeves* heard of the *Fire*, going to a place where she might see it, she met with Mrs. *Susanna St. George*; and among other Discourse, told her, how much her Mother's words which she spake before the *Fire*, did run in her thoughts, which she repeated to her Daughter; who made this reply, *That her Mother was very apt to talk, and that she had been forc'd to keep her Mother within doors during the Fire, fearing that she should talk*. After this destruction by *Fire*, Mrs. *Eeves* met with *Mr. Coale*, another Recufant, and one of the same Family; she also related Mrs. *St. Georges* words to him; who made this Return, *That she was a worthy Woman to keep counsel*. The Lady *St. George* at *Enfield*, at the Lord of *Lincoln's* House, declared to Mrs. *Rebeccah Eeves*, *That in few dayes London should be in Ashes*, This was spoken about two dayes before the *Fire* happened.

*Mrs. Eeves of Enfield. before Mr. Holland and Mr. Mervil, Members of Parliament, Decemb. 20. 1666. concerning Mrs. St. George.*

Mrs. *Rebeccah Eeves* of *Enfield*, three or four dayes, or within a Week before the *Fire*, receiving a Visit in her own House from Mrs. *St. George*, among other Discourse, Mrs. *St. George* asked her, *What News she heard?* and if she knew when the Parliament sate? She replied, *She thought suddenly*. The other asked, *If Mrs. Eeves heard of any that were to be call'd in question before the Parliament?*

*Eeves. About what?*

*St. George. About a Plot.*

*Eeves. What Plot?*

*St. George. About firing the City.*

*Eeves. I hope God will preserve the City; people use not to be called in question before the Fact*. So that Discourse was waved at that time. At the time of the *Fire*, Mrs. *Eeves* and Mrs. *St. George* went out to look towards the *Fire*, and one in the company (but she cannot fix the Person) replied, *A fine Woman to keep Counsel*. After the *Fire*, Mrs. *St. Georges* Daughter coming to Mrs. *Eeves's* House, Mrs. *Eeves* asked her, if she remembered what her Mother said? who answered, *My Mother is such a Woman, she will speak what she thinks*. And afterwards said, *That she had much ado to keep her Mother in*,  
in



in the time of the Fire, for fear she should speak something that she might be questioned for. At this Discourse Mrs. Evee's Daughter and others of her Family were present. Mr. St. George hereupon, with his Wife and Family, left Enfield about fix weeks after, but left many more in the Neighbourhood. It's reported, that at the House of Mr. Cook and other Recusants, there was great Coaching, Drinking, and Rejoycing at the time of the Fire. December the 20th. 1666.

Rebecca Evee.

*A Letter directed and sent by a Papist to Mr. Lamb, from Tarleton in Leicester-shire, from a Person unknown; as follows.*

My Friend,

**Y**our presence is now more necessary at London than where you are, that you may determine how to dispose of your Estate in Southwark, for it is determined by Humane Council (if not frustrated by Divine Power) that your Liberty will shortly be destroyed; your capacity is large enough to understand: proceed as your Genius shall instruct.

Vale, cave, fuge.

*The Liberty of Haring in the County of Essex.*

*The Information of Robert Hubert, a Frenchman, taken at Rumford, the 11th. of September 1666. before Cary Harvie, alias Mildmay Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace for the Liberty of the County aforesaid.*

**H**E saith, that about Mid-lent he came out of France, with one Stephen Pedilow a Frenchman, with whom he stayed about four Months, as his Companion, and then they came together into England in a Swedish Ship, called the Skipper, which was laden with Iron, Steel, and Copper-Plates; and saith, that the Matter's name of the Ship is also Skipper, and that Pedilow kept the Examinant on board that Ship, which lay at St. Katharines Brewhouse, but Pedilow himself went several times into the City, and came on board again, and had often private discourse with the said Master of the Ship; and saith, that when the City was on fire, he, this Examinant, was sent out by Pedilow, who had given him a Fire-ball, and bade him fire an House near the Kings Palace, for which the said Pedilow gave him a shilling, and promised him a greater Reward when he came into France; which Fire-ball, this Examinant saith, he fired, and threw into the window of an House near White-hall, on Tuesday Night, which fired the same House, and he stayed there, and saw it burn two or three hours; and further saith, that Pedilow bade him not make Use of this Fire-ball till he saw the City on fire, and then to do it, which he did accordingly, and then went to find the Ship, but it was gone; and further saith, that Pedilow had two Fire-balls himself; and the said Examinant saith, divers other Frenchmen have Fire-balls; and saith also that

that when this Examinant came last to the Ship, the said Master directed him to find his Comrade *Pedilow*; at his Chamber or Lodging, but at what house he confessed not; and said, that not finding the Ship aforesaid, he came this way to go towards the Sea Coasts, in hopes, either by that or some other Vessel to get a Passage home.

*The Information of John Lowman, Keeper of his Majesties Gaol  
for the County of Surry.*

**I**N Obedience to an Order to me directed, from the Right Honourable the Committee of the House of Commons, then sitting in the Speakers Chamber, on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, I carried *Robert Hubert* to St. Katharines-Tower by Water, to shew me where the Swedish Ship lay, that brought him and other Frenchmen from Stockholm; he brought me to the Dock, over against Mr. *Corfellis* his Brewhouse, and did certify to me and Mr. *Corfellis*, that the Ship lay there till such time, as he with Mr. *Pedilow* and others, did go and set Fire to Mr. *Farmers* house; and the Examinant saith further, that Mr. *Pedilow* did fix two fire-Balls to a long Pole, and that the said *Robert Hubert* did fix one in the same manner, and did put it in at the same Window, but with all the Enquiry and Diligence I could make or use, I could neither find, nor hear of any such Ship or Vessel; and from thence I carried the said *Robert Hubert* to Tower Hill, and desired him to shew me the House they did fire, and he said it was near the Bridge, but we went along *Thames-street*, towards *London-bridge*, but before we came at the Bridge, the said *Robert Hubert* said, the said house was up there; (and pointed with his hand up *Pudding-lane*.) so I bad him go to the Place, and he went along upon the Bricks and Rubbish, and made a stand, then I asked one *Robert Paine* a Porter, which was the Bakers House, and he told me that was the house where *Hubert* stood, so I went to *Robert Hubert* and stood by him, turning my Back towards the Bakers house, and demanded which house it was he fired, directing to some house contrary to that house, but he turning himself about, said, This was the house, (pointing to the Bakers house) that was first fired; Then by reason of his Lameness, I set him on an Horse, and carried him to other places, but no other Place he would acknowledge, but nodded back again to the Bakers house, and said again, That was the Bakers house, pointing to the said Bakers house: And this is humbly certified, to the Honourable Committee by me *John Lowman* Keeper of his Majesties Gaol, for the County of Surry.

At the Committee appointed to receive Information touching the Insolency of Popish Priests, and the Increase of Popery.

**O**Rdered, That the said several Informations by this Committee taken, be reported to the House in Order to the Discovery and Suppression of the Insolency of Popish Priests, and Increase of Popery.



## Concerning the Increase of Popery.

AS to the Increase of Popery, Mr. Hancock Minister of Gbilnock informs, that meeting with one Mr. Thompson, about a moneth since, coming from Masse out of Somerset-House-Chappel, and discoursing with him about his Religion, asked him if there were many turned lately? To which Mr. Thompson answered, *Thousands*; and being demanded what encouragement there was to believe it? Replied, *There will be a change suddenly.*

*The Report of his carriage at the Committee.*

Mr. Thompson being summoned before the Committee, carried himself very insolently, which Behaviour of his I am commanded to report. Being asked whether he had not a Shop in *Somerset house*, where Popish Books and Popish Knacks are sold? He said, *he had*, and that his men sold such Books and Beads and other things, and confessed a Crucifix and some Reliques; he said he was a *Roman Catholick*, and thanked God for it; that he was no Priest, but wished he was in a Capacity to be *One*, that he had not taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, nor would he; that he would take any Oath that any Christian Prince should require, but not the Oath of Allegiance, intimating some mixture in it; he said further that he had then taken the Oath of Allegiance to the King of *Spain*, and so was his Subject.

Mr. Alb Miniter of Cluppel in Surrey, informs, that being at *Cosfield* in *Leicestershire* this last Summer, he saw a great Resort on Sunday to *Cosfield-house*, the house of a Papist; and asking some that were going thither, what the occasion of their Resort thither was? they told him they were going to Masse, and that one Mr. Robinson a Priest, did say Masse. Mr. Alb did likewise inform, that he thought the number of those that went thither to Masse that Sunday, was as great as that of the Protestants that went to the Parish-Church.

Mr. Wiling Deputy-Ordinary of *Middlesex*, did inform, that in his Attendance on the Prisoners in *Newgate*, he had observed, that the *Romish* Priests, particularly one *Harvey* a Jesuit, did constantly, about the times of Execution, frequent that Prison, and by Perswasions endeavour to fix their Principles in the Prisoners; of whom the said *Harvey* had seduced many.

Mr. Hatton informs, that on the sixth of *October*, he went to *Newgate*; and meeting with one *Haward*, under-Keeper at the door, desired to speak with *Hubert* the Frenchman, who was then condemned. *Haward* told him he could not speak with him yet, for Mr. *Harvey* the Queen Mothers Confessor was in private with him, and said, that this *Harvey* used frequently to come to the Prison after Condemnation, and where one Prisoner, dyed a Protestant, many dyed Papists. Mr. Hatton said, that after some stay he saw Mr. *Harvey* come out from *Hubert*, after which he was admitted to him.

Mr. *Hawking* Keeper of *Newgate*, did inform, that the said Mr. *Harvey* the Jesuit did frequent the Prison under pretence of the Queens Charity, and did spend much time with the Prisoners in private, and particularly did so night after night before last Execution.

Mr. *Hawking* said likewise, that of the Nine that suffered, eight dyed Papists, whereof some he knew to have been Protestants when they came into the Prison.

It appeared further upon several Informations, that Mr. *Harvey* and other Priests, did not only resort to *Newgate* at times of Execution, but likewise to the *White Lyon* in *Southwark*, and other places in the Countreys, and used their endeavours to pervert dying Prisoners.

*Thomas Barnet*, late a Papist, informs, that while he was of that Persuasion he often resorted to the houses of such Gentlemen in *Burkshire* as were Roman Catholics, every of which houses had its Romish Priest; and of this he gives Instances in the houses of several private Gentlemen in that County. The like Information give others against the County of *Surrey*.

Mr. *Cottman* did inform, that one Mr. *Compert* (late a Preacher at S. Hall,) did in Discourse tell him the said *Cottman*, that the Judgments of God upon this Kingdom by the Plague last year, and lately by the Fire in *London*, were come upon the Land and People for their forsaking the true Roman Catholick Religion, and shaking off their Obedience to the Pope; and that if they would return to the Church of *Rome*, the Pope would rebuild the City at his own Charge. *Compert* said likewise to the said *Cottman*, That if he would come and hear him preach the next Sunday, at his house in *Queens-street*, he would give twenty reasons to prove, that the Roman Catholick was the true Religion, and his the false, and that our Bible had a thousand Falsities in it; and that there was no true Scripture but at *Rome*, and in their Church.

*Compert* at the Committee confessed, that he had formerly taken Orders from the Church of *Rome*; but said he had now renounced that Church; and taken Orders in *England*.

*The next thing is the Information of their Insolency; and I shall begin with their scorning and despising the Bible.*

One *Thomas Williams*, an Officer in Sir *William Bompers* Regiment, informs, That one *Audley*, a Papist, seeing a woman reading in a Bible, asked her why she read in that profane Presbyterian Bible? and said, a Play-book was as good.

*Thomas Barret* of *Bingfield* informs, that being at one Mr. *Yonges* house in *Bingfield*, at Bartholomew tide last, Mr. *Young* said to the Brother of this *Thomas Barret*, in his hearing, that within two years there should not be a Protestant in *England*.

*Thomas Barnett* informs, that being at *Mr. Doncasters* house in *Bingsfield*, one *Mr. Shellers*, Son in Law to *Mr. Doncaster*, both Papists, said to this Informant, who was then likewise a Papist, *The People take me for a poor fellow, but I shall find a thousand or two thousand of Pounds to raise a party of Horse, to make Mr. Hawthorns and Mr. Blackwels fat Guts lye on the Ground; for it is no more to kill an Heretick, than to kill a Grasshopper; and that it was happy for this Thomas Barnett that he was a Catholick, for by this means he should be one of those that should be mounted.*

*Mr. Linwood* a Scrivener in *White-chappel*, informs, That about the 20th. of *October* last meeting with one *Badley* a Papist, and discoursing with him, betold him, That there was amongst the Papists as great a Design as ever was in *England*, and he thought it would be executed suddainly. Being asked how many Papists there were about *London*? He answered, About seven thousand, and in *England* an hundred thousand well armed.

*Mr. Oaks* his Affidavit.

*Mr. Oaks*, a Physitian dwelling in *Shadwell*, informs, that a little after the burning of the City of *London*, one *Mr. Carpenter*, a Minister, came to his house on *Tower-wharf*, and spake to him to this Purpose; I will not say I am a Papist, but this I will say, I had rather dye the Death of the Papists, and that my Soul should be raised with their Resurrection, than either of Presbyterian, Independent or Anabaptist; and I tell you, the Papists have hitherto been his Majesties best Fortifications; for when Presbyterians, Independents and Anabaptists forsook and opposed him, they stood by him and helped him; and take it on my word, the Papists in a short time, will lay you all as low as that house; (pointing to an house that was demolished) for they are able to raise forty thousand men, and I believe, the next work will be cutting of Throats. This was sworn by *Mr. Oaks*, before *Sir John Frederick* Member of the House.

*Mr. Pilkington* being present when the words were spoken, doth affirm them all.

*Henry Young* a Distiller of Hot-waters, informs, that about the moneth of *April* in the year 1661. being in the Jesuits Colledge in *Antwerp*, one *Powel* an English Jesuit perswaded him to turn Roman Catholick, and said, that if he intended to save his Life and Estate, he had best to turn; for within seven years he should see *England* of that Religion. *Young* replied, the City of *London* will never endure it. *Powel* answered, that within five or six years they would break the Power and Strength of *London* in pieces, and that they had been contriving it this twenty years. The said *Young* did likewise inform, that after coming into *England*, one *Thompson* and one *Copernel*, both Papists, did several times say to him, That within five or six years at farthest, the Roman Catholick Religion should be all over this Kingdom.

*Joseph*

*Joseph Goodwin of Dorking in the County of Surrey, informs, That about a Moneth since, one Edward Complin, a Papist, said to him, You must all be Papists shortly, and that now he was not ashamed to own himself a Roman Catholick, and to own his Priests, (naming two that were in Dorking, in the house, with two Papists) and likewise said, that in twenty four hours warning the Papists or Roman Catholicks could raise thirty thousand men as well armed as any in Christendom.*

*William Weaver of Dorking, informs, that the said Edward Capernel did tell him, The Roman Catholick in England could, in twenty four hours raise three thousand Horse and Arms; and upon saying so, pull'd out his Crucifix and Beads, and said, He was not ashamed of his Religion.*

*John Graunger of Dorking, informs, that about a year since, being in his house reading the Bible, one Thomas Cooling, a Papist, said to him, Are you still a Church-goer? Had you not better turn Roman Catholick? If you stay whilst you are fetched, none will abide you. And said further, That there was a man beyond the Seas had prophesied, That Anno 1666. if the King did not settle the Roman Religion in England, he would be banished out of his Kingdom, and all his Posterity. And Cooling further said, That he, being lately turned a Roman Catholick, he would not be a Protestant again for all the World; wishing Graunger again, in the hearing of his Wife, (which she affirmed to the Committee) to turn his Religion; for all the said Prophecies would come to pass in the year 1666.*

*Robert Holloway of Dorking aforesaid, informs, That one Stephen Griffin, a Papist, said to him, That all the blood that was shed in the last Civil War, was nothing to that that would be shed this year in England. Holloway demanded a reason thereof, in regard the Kingdom was in Peace, and no likelihood of Trouble, and said, Do you Papists intend to rise and cut our Throats when we are asleep? Griffin answered, that is no matter, if you live you shall see it.*

*Ferdinand de Marcedo a Portugal, and some few years since a Roman Catholick, but now turned Protestant, informs, That one Father Banto, a Jesuit, did the last year tell him at Paris, That if all England did not return to the Church of Rome, they should be destroyed the next year.*

*Mr. Samuel Wightman of the middle Temple, Barister, informs, That about two years since, one Mr. Genison a Popish Priest, wished him to turn Catholick, and he should want neither Profit nor Preferment, Mr. Wightman objected, that he intended to practise the Law, which he could not do if he turned Papist, for he must take the Oath of Supremacy at his being called to the Bar, and if he were a Papist he must not take it. Mr. Genison replied, Why not take the Oath? It is an unlawful Oath, and void ipso facto; and after some Pause, said further, First take the Oath, and then I will convert you; And further: said, That the King would not own himself Head of the Church; And also said,*

*Those in England that set up the DUTCH to destroy our Religion, they shall be the men to PULL DOWN YOURS.*

*Mun Stanley*, an Officer in the Duke of Ormonds own Regiment, informs, That coming lately out of *Ireland*, and with him one *Oriel*, who owned himself of the Order of *Jesuits*, and commissioned from the Pope to be Lord Primate of *Ireland*, and Archbishop of *Armagh*; *Oriel* discoursing with him, told him, That there had been a Difference between him and some others of the *Jesuits* in *Ireland*, and that particularly one of the Occasions was, that one Father *Walsh* and some others of the *Jesuits* there, did dispense with the Papists in *Ireland*; to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, by virtue of a standing Commission from the Pope they had, to do it during this Kings Reign; and *Oriel* thought they ought not to do it by virtue of the standing Commission, but should take a new Commission from the Pope every year to do it. And said likewise, That he brought eight Boys out of *Ireland* to carry to *Flanders* to breed up in the Colleges. And at his taking Ship to go into *Flanders*, he shook his Feet towards *England*, and termed it *Egypt*, and said, He would not return to *England*, till he came with fifty thousand at his heels.

## An Information concerning the late Fire in Fetter-Lane.

**M**R. Robert Bird, whose House it was that was set on Fire, informed, That his Wife retained one Elizabeth Oxley to be her Servant (supposing her to be a Protestant) upon Monday the 24th of February last, but she came not to her Service until the 6th of March after. That upon Wednesday night the 9th of April last, about two or three of the clock in the morning, the said Servant came to his Bed-side and awaked him, telling him *There was a Fire in Holborn*: Whereupon he asked her, How she knew it? She answered, By the noise in the Street. Whereupon he arose, and look'd into the Street, but there was little noise or light; so he staid at his Street-door, until he was informed by two men that passed by, that there had been a Fire, but it was put out again: whereupon he returned to Bed, well pleased he had so watchful a Servant, and fearful of Fire: But none of his Family heard any thing thereof, until informed by the said Oxley, as she believeth. That on Thursday the 10th. of April, he was told, the said Oxley went not up to Bed till about eleven a Clock: That before he went to Bed, he looked to the Doors, Windows, and Rooms, to see if all were safe from Fire and Thieves, (as his custom was) and was the last up in the Family, as he thought. That being in Bed and asleep, about twelve of the clock that night he was awaked with a great beating at the door by the Watch, and the said Oxley coming immediately to him, told him, *There was a Fire*: To which he said, He was sure it was not in his House, but gave her the Key of the Street-door; who ran down, and let in the Watch and Company; and he coming down, found a large Press in his Closet, (for keeping Books, Papers, and Writings, on a light Fire, but by the mercy of God, and the great help he had, the Fire was put out, and his House preserv'd. That his Wife with some Neighbours immediately going to the said Oxley's Lodging Room to see if all was safe, found that she had packed up her Clothes and things ready to carry away, and her Trunks lock'd up, but nothing left in them of value: Whereupon he demanded of the said Oxley why she had packed up her Clothes? She answered, that she and his other Maid Martha had packed up her things to save them. Then he asked the said Martha, Why she had packed up in that time when the Lives of the Children and Family were in that danger? who positively denied that she packed up any thing. Whereupon, and for that he was sure when he went to bed there was not a spark of Fire in the Closet, and considering that the said Oxley, at the first knocking at the door, though she lay two pair of stairs above his Chamber, and being informed that she had not put out her Candle into the Candlestick, nor burnt it, but pulled it out, and hid the Candlestick; and from the manner of her Carriage used when she perceived she was suspected; he positively Charged the said Oxley with Firing his House, and



caused her to be kept safe all that night : And the next day being Charged by the Neighbour with Firing the House, she at last Confessed the same, by setting the Press in the Closet and his Papers on Fire about Twelve of the Clock, when he and his Family were asleep. And he said that she the said Oxley might have gone out at a Back door of his House, and carried away any of his Goods and Plate, if she pleased at any hour in the night, without Firing his House ; the Key of the Back door lying in the Kitchen, and laid there by her self. And he said, nothing of value was found in the said Oxley's pack, made up by her, as aforesaid, but her own things.

#### Elizabeth Oxley Examination.

Elizabeth Oxley upon her Examination said ; That about *Michaelmas* last she became acquainted with *Nicholas Stubbs*, who had several times used many persuasions to turn her Papist ; and after her shewing a liking to it, and that he supposed she had embraced that Perswasion ; in his Discourse to her at several times, he told her, that before the 28th of *June* next, she should see all the Protestants destroyed that were in *England* ; that the *Pope* should be King over *England* ; that all that would turn to the Popish Religion should live far better than now they did ; that all the Land were Hereticks, and it were a Meritorious Act to destroy them ; and that all such as were Papists should have Marks upon their Hats, whereby to distinguish them from Protestants, that they might not be destroyed amongst them. Adding, that the Nation do believe that all things will be over before the 28th day of *June*, but they would be deceived, for all should be destroyed at or before that time. That the Duke of *York* was the bravest Prince living, and that he was gone out of the Kingdom, lest the Hereticks should cut off his Head, and he would not return till they were destroyed ; that the Lords in the *Tower* would not one of them Suffer, for they would come off well enough, being to be tryed by the Lords ; and that the Scaffolds were set up but for fashion sake. That she telling the said *Stubbs* that she was Hired to Live with one *Mr. Bird* about the middle of *Fetter-lane*, he used persuasions to her at several times to set Fire on her Masters House ; telling her, if she would do it, he would give her five pound, and gave her half a Crown, and said, he would have other Houses in *Holborn* Fired at the same time by others : That she being with the said *Stubbs* on *Sunday* before the said Fire, promised to Fire her Master's House on *Thursday* or *Friday* night following ; and accordingly on *Thursday* night she took a Candle and set Fire to her Master's Papers in his Study, which were in a kind of a Press ; and then being on a light Fire, she shut the doors, and went up stairs into her own Chamber in the top of the House, and packed up her own Things, and Undressed her self, lest her Master should suspect her, and there stayed till a great Knocking was at the Door, and the Watchmen crying out Fire, whereupon she run down Stairs, and cried out Fire, and her Master gave her the Keys to open the Door ; which done, all hands were employed to quench the Fire. And she saith, she did not set Fire on her Masters House out of any Malice to him, nor with intent to Rob him, but merely



meerly to carry on the Design which *Stubbs* had proposed to her, and out of hopes of his Reward.

### The Examination of *Nicholas Stubbs*.

*Nicholas Stubbs* upon his Examination owns, and sets forth to have used such Discourse to the said *Elizabeth*, as she declareth in her Examination; and saith, he did perswade her to Fire her Master's House, and was to give her five Guineys for doing it, besides half a Crown in hand: And saith, that one Father *Gifford*, a Priest, and his Confessor, had put him on this business, and told him it was no sin to Fire all the Houses of Hereticks and Hugonites.

That he acquainted *Flower*, alias *Darby*, a Barber in *German-street*, and one *Roger* another *Irish* man, that Lodged at the Coach and Horses in the same Street. That the said Father *Gifford* promised him 100 l. for the same, and told him he was to have the Money from the Church. That they used to meet the said *Gifford*, and other two Persons in *St. James's-fields* in the dark of the Evening, and to discourse of these matters; and that the several Informations that he had given the said *Elizabeth Oxley*, he had from the said Father *Gifford*; and saith, *Flower* and *Roger* told the said *Stubbs*, they would carry on the said Fire, and that they had Fire-Balls for that purpose, and that they would Fire other Houses in *Holborn* at the same time: That he was at the Fire in the Temple, but was not engaged to do any thing in it. And saith, that *Gifford* told him, that there were *English, French* and *Irish* Roman-Catholicks enough in *London* to make a very good Army; and that the King of *France* was coming with 60000 men, under pretence to shew the *Dauphin* his Dominions; but it was to lay his men at *Diep, Bulloign, Callis, and Dunkirk*, to be at an hours warning to be Landed in *England*, and he doubted not but it would be by the middle of *June*, and by that time all the Catholicks here will be in readines; all were to rise in order to bring him in. That the Papists here were to be distinguished by Marks in their Hats; that the said Father *Gifford* doubted not but he should be an Abbot or a Bishop when the work was over, for the good service he had done. That, at their Meeting, *Patther Gifford* used to tell them, it was no more sin to kill a Heretick than a Dog, and that they did God good service in doing what mischiefs they could by Firing their Houses. That it was well Sir *Edmond bury Godfrey* was murdered, for he was their Devilish Enemy; That *Coleman* was a Saint in Heaven for what he had done. And saith, he is fearful he shall be murdered for this Confession, Father *Gifford* having Sworn him to Secrefie; and told him he should be Damned if he made any Discovery, and should be sure to be killed; and that he should take the Oaths because he was a House-keeper, and that it was no sin: And saith, that *Gifford* and *Roger* told him, when their Forces met about the middle of *June*, then have at the \_\_\_\_\_

FINIS.